Third-Party Intervention in Jammu and Kashmir

2654. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) inspite of assurance given by Government that all steps have been taken to meet the challenge of extremists in Jammu and Kashmir, how the attack on Jammu and Kashmir Assembly took place that led to death of over 40 people;

(b) whether the Prime Minister, through his letter to US President, sought his intervention in Jammu and Kashmir nullifying age-old Indian stand that no third-party intervention in Jammu and Kashmir would be entertained; and

(c) if so, the reason thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The terrorist attacks against the Jammu & Kashmir State Assembly on 1st October illustrated the fact that despite professing to support the international coalition against terrorism, Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir continues unabated.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Writing soon after the attack against the Jammu & Kashmir on 1st October, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in his letter to President George Bush emphasized that "*incidents of this kind raise questions for our security which, as a democratically elected leader of India, I have to address in our supreme national interest. . . akistan must understand that there is a limit to the patience of the people of . . dia*".

India's position on the State of Jammu & Kashmir is well known. The State is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan relations, both countries are committed to resolving all issues peacefully through direct bilateral approaches. There is no question of any, third party involvement in any aspect of India-Pakistan relations.

USA's interest in Indo-Pak Dialogue

2655. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for which the USA is interested to push India and Pakistan to resume dialogue on Kashmir; and

(b) Government's reaction on the interest of USA on Kashmir issue ?